

Fredericksburg Arts Commission Meeting

Thursday, January 8th, 2009

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Kevin Bartram, Kerry Devine, Kathleen Walsh, Rochelle Grey, Roy Jarnecke, Pat Thalman, Peter Scelfo, George Solley, Julie Perry, Florence Ridderhof, and Debby Klein.

Approval of Minutes

Roy Jarnecke called the meeting to order. The minutes of November 6th, 2008 were reviewed, and Debby Klein made a motion to accept. Motion was seconded by Kerry Devine and the motion unanimously passed.

Public Comment

Chairman Jarnecke recognized two members of the public that were in attendance and allowed them to introduce themselves. Bill Richardson of Brush Strokes Gallery asked the commission about the new Courtyard by Marriot Hotel in the downtown and its plan to incorporate local art in its decorating. George Solley informed him that the City's Department of Economic Development was tasked to look into the decorating plans and the commission would research it further.

Kathryn Willis presented information about the Virginian's for the Arts Foundation and the Virginia Commission for the Arts annual conference in Richmond entitled *Art Works for Virginia* – January 27th -29th 2009. She distributed brochures /registrations and Chairman Jarnecke suggested the group respond individually if anyone was available to attend. Kathryn Willis also informed the group of a grants workshop sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts on February 4th in Lorton from 10am-12pm.

Art in the Community

Chairman Jarnecke introduced a new agenda item he named "Art in the Community". Calling each of us to be *Ambassadors for the Arts* he went around the room and asked the commission members to describe some local visual and performing arts opportunities they took advantage of over the holidays. It was a time of sharing and highlighting the diverse offerings in our area.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Peter Scelfo reported that the commission had \$10,000 in its treasury. There were no expenditures or deposits since the last meeting. No one had questions.

Reports

Long Term Planning Committee – Peter Scelfo

Peter Scelfo reported the long term planning committee had its first meeting and were in the early stages of developing a *strategic plan* or *plan of work* for the next 10 years of the Fredericksburg Arts Commission. They announced a goal of presenting the 10 year plan to the commission for approval at the April meeting.

Website Committee Report- Pat Thalman

Due to some overlapping efforts Pat Thalman reported that the website committee would put a hold on all activities as work developed with the Cultural Survey Committee.

Arts Fair Committee- Kevin Bartram

Kevin Bartram reported that the Arts Fair Committee had not met over the holidays and due to the current economic concerns in the community was pursuing their assigned task at a more cautious speed. They told the commission they have unofficially changed their efforts from a large scale event sponsored completely by the commission to the less risky option of combining efforts with an existing local event or organization.

Cultural Survey Committee - Carolyn Van Der Jagt

Carolyn Van Der Jagt presented a series of documents on behalf of the Cultural Survey Committee. A Draft Inventory Outline, Inventory Process, and several pages of a sample web-page at www.fredericksburgvaarts.org were distributed and discussed. Much discussion centered around the format of the survey and whether or not contact information should be collected from those filling out the survey. It was eventually decided that individual commission members should email their suggestions for questions & restructuring to Carolyn Van Der Jagt at cvjagt@yahoo.com by January 22nd.

Old Business

New Business

Minds Wide Open Initiative – Julie Perry

Julie Perry passed out literature and presented the Virginia Commission for the Arts 2010 initiative called *Minds Wide Open – Women in the Arts*. She explained the program and encouraged members to take the opportunity back to their respective organizations for consideration. There were some questions about the theme selection which was answered with assistance from Kathryn Willis.

Not on the Agenda

Bike Rack Program

George Solley informed the group of a potential new project in conjunction with the EDA for artistic Bike Rack development for various downtown corridors. He asked the group for permission to approach the EDA on behalf of the Arts Commission. Florence Ridderhof made the motion and Peter Scelfo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Perspective and Outreach

Before the close of the meeting Kathleen Walsh informed the group about her work with the Bragg Hill Family Life Center's Homework Club. She reminded everyone that as a City of Fredericksburg Commission we need to focus on Arts Initiatives for all City residents and all areas of our community. Echoed by most of the group - Kerry Devine then told of an unfortunate issue in the public schools with funding an arts related field trip to George Mason for a series of short story plays. Discussion followed.

Announcement

January 17th – FFA Young Artists Competition

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th at 7pm in the City Hall Conference Room.